



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## CSP Job Sheet E-4

### Energy Enhancement Activities

For 2005, the Conservation Security Program (CSP) offers a limited number of enhancement payments as incentives to reward or encourage on-farm energy conservation and management. These enhancements are available once the applicant qualifies for CSP by meeting the program's entry requirements for soil and water quality.

This information will help landowners and managers determine if they are eligible for the offered payment(s) for energy enhancement activities.

#### Reduced Tillage Operations

##### STIR Ratings (Less Than 60, 30, & 15)

Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) is a calculation based on the location of cropland and the Crop Management System that the producer employs on that land. It is an index used to evaluate the kind, severity, and number of ground-disturbing tillage passes on soil quality. Higher numbers indicate greater disturbance; lower numbers indicate less disturbance.



The components of STIR are: operating speed of tillage equipment, tillage type, tillage depth, and the percent of surface area disturbed. Weights are assigned to each component to calculate a rating. This rating is useful in making residue management decisions. It is one of three outputs from the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation Version 2.0. (RUSLE2). The other outputs are a soil loss estimate and a soil organic matter trend estimate from the Soil Conditioning Index.

Documentation Required: STIR ratings from RUSLE2.